

Claim Amendments

Please amend the claims as follows. The following is a complete listing of the claims that replaces all previous versions.

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for increasing an amount ~~of a first security~~ of shares of common stock that are issued by a first entity available to an investor for ~~borrow~~ borrowing ~~[[, the first security issued by a first entity]]~~ , the method comprising:

~~by a second entity,~~

underwriting, by a second entity, an issuance of a convertible security issued by the first entity;

purchasing, by a second entity from the first entity, through a computer system, a first quantity of the first security common stock of the first entity, wherein funds are electronically transferred from an account for the second party entity to an account of the first entity for the purchase of the first quantity of the common stock by [[a]] the computer system for the purchase, wherein the computer system comprises at least one computer that comprises a RAM memory and a ROM memory;

entering into, by the second entity, a forward purchase contract with the first entity, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to subsequently deliver a second quantity of the first security common stock of the first entity to the first entity on a settlement date, wherein the settlement date coincides with a termination date of a second the convertible security issued by the first entity, wherein the first quantity is less than or equal to the

second quantity, wherein the convertible security is different from the first entity's common stock, wherein the termination date of the convertible security is at least one of a maturity date of the convertible security second security, a call date of the convertible security second security, and a put date of the convertible security second security, wherein funds are electronically transferred from the account of the first entity to the account of the second entity pursuant to the forward purchase contract, wherein the reported earnings per share of the common stock of the first entity are not diluted because the second quantity of common stock is accounted for as a repurchase of the second quantity of common stock under the forward purchase contract; and

lending, by the second entity through the computer system, a third quantity of the first security common stock issued by the first entity to the investor who has purchased the convertible security second security, wherein funds are electronically transferred from an account of the investor to the account of the second entity for the lending of the third quantity of the first security to the investor,

wherein the forward purchase contract comprises terms that obligate the second entity to pay the first entity until the settlement date of the forward purchase contract (i) any amounts received by the second entity from lending the second quantity of the common stock to the investor and (ii) any dividends paid on the common stock.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein purchasing the first quantity of the common stock first security includes purchasing the first quantity of the common stock first security from the first entity.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein purchasing the first quantity of the common stock ~~first security~~ includes purchasing the first quantity of the common stock ~~first security~~ from an intermediary.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein purchasing the first quantity of the common stock ~~first security~~ includes purchasing the first quantity of the common stock ~~first security~~ for a first price, and wherein entering into the forward purchase contract includes obligating the second entity to subsequently deliver the second quantity of the common stock ~~first security~~ to the first entity for the first price.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to subsequently deliver a quantity of the common stock ~~first security~~ equal to the first quantity to the first entity.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein entering into the forward purchase contract includes entering into the forward purchase contract when the first quantity of the common stock ~~first security~~ is purchased.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein entering into the forward purchase contract includes the second entity receiving a first payment before a settlement date of the forward purchase contract.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the second entity receiving the first payment includes the second entity receiving the first payment when the forward purchase contract is entered into.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the second entity receiving the first payment includes the second entity receiving a payment equal to a sale price of the second quantity of the common stock ~~first security~~.

11-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~14~~14, wherein the forward purchase contract permits the second entity to pay the first entity until the settlement date of the forward purchase contract ~~at least a portion of the third amount~~ with stock.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to fulfill the forward purchase contract by a settlement date that is one of a maturity date of a the convertible security ~~second security~~ issued by the first

entity, a put date of the convertible security ~~second security~~ and a call date of the convertible security ~~second security~~.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein lending the third quantity of the common stock ~~first security~~ to the investor includes lending at least one of the first and second quantities of the common stock ~~first security~~ to the investor.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein lending the third quantity of the common stock ~~first security~~ to the investor includes lending the third quantity of the common stock ~~first security~~ to the investor after the first quantity of the common stock ~~first security~~ is purchased and the forward purchase contract is entered into.

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22_1, wherein the convertible security ~~second security~~ comprises a convertible security selected from the group comprising a convertible bond security and a convertible preferred stock security.

24-46. (Canceled)

47. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for increasing an amount ~~of a first security~~ of shares of common stock that are issued by a first entity available to an investor for ~~borrow~~ borrowing without diluting reported earnings per share of the common stock of the first entity, the method comprising:

~~by a second entity,~~

~~underwriting,~~ by a second entity, an issuance of a convertible security ~~second security~~ issued by the first entity;

~~purchasing,~~ by the second entity through a computer system, a first quantity of the common stock ~~first security~~ issued by a first entity, wherein funds are electronically transferred from an account for the second ~~party~~ entity to an account of the first entity for the purchase of the first quantity of the common stock by ~~[[a]] the computer system for the purchase,~~ wherein the computer system comprises at least one computer that comprises a RAM memory and a ROM memory;

~~entering into,~~ by the second entity, a forward purchase contract with the first entity, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to subsequently deliver a second quantity of the security common stock of the first entity to the first entity by a settlement date, wherein the settlement date is a maturity date of the convertible security ~~second security~~ issued by the first entity, wherein the first quantity is less than or equal to the second quantity, wherein the convertible security is different from the first entity's common stock, and wherein funds are electronically transferred from the account of the first entity to the account of

the second entity pursuant to the forward purchase contract, wherein the reported earnings per share of the common stock of the first entity are not diluted because the second quantity of common stock is accounted for as a repurchase of the second quantity of common stock under the forward purchase contract; and

lending, by the second entity through the computer system, a third quantity of the security common stock issued by the first entity to the investor who has purchased the convertible security second security, wherein funds are electronically transferred from an account of the investor to the account of the second entity for the lending of the third quantity of the first security to the investor,

wherein the forward purchase contract comprises terms that obligate the second entity to pay the first entity until the settlement date of the forward purchase contract (i) any amounts received by the second entity from lending the second quantity of the common stock to the investor and (ii) any dividends paid on the common stock.

48. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for increasing an amount of a first security of shares of common stock that are issued by a first entity available to an investor for borrow borrowing without diluting reported earnings per share of the common stock of the first entity, the method comprising:

by a second entity,

underwriting, by a second entity, an issuance of a convertible security second security issued by the first entity;

purchasing, by the second entity through a computer system, a first quantity of the common stock ~~first security~~ issued by a first entity, wherein funds are electronically transferred from an account for the second ~~party~~ entity to an account of the first entity for the purchase of the first quantity of the common stock by [[a]] the computer system for the purchase, wherein the computer system comprises at least one computer that comprises a RAM memory and a ROM memory;

entering into, by the second entity, a forward purchase contract with the first entity, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to subsequently deliver a second quantity of the ~~security~~ common stock of the first entity to the first entity by a settlement date, wherein the settlement date is a put date of [[a]] the convertible security ~~second security~~ issued by the first entity, wherein the first quantity is less than or equal to the second quantity, wherein the convertible security is different from the first entity's common stock, and wherein funds are electronically transferred from the account of the first entity to the account of the second entity pursuant to the forward purchase contract, wherein the reported earnings per share of the common stock of the first entity are not diluted because the second quantity of common stock is accounted for as a repurchase of the second quantity of common stock under the forward purchase contract; and

lending, by the second entity through the computer system, a third quantity of the ~~security~~ common stock issued by the first entity to the investor who has purchased the convertible security ~~second security~~, wherein funds are electronically transferred from an account of the investor to the account of the second entity for the lending of the third quantity of the first security to the investor,

wherein the forward purchase contract comprises terms that obligate the second entity to pay the first entity until the settlement date of the forward purchase contract (i) any amounts received by the second entity from lending the second quantity of the common stock to the investor and (ii) any dividends paid on the common stock.

49. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for increasing an amount of a first security of shares of common stock that are issued by a first entity available to an investor for borrow borrowing without diluting reported earnings per share of the common stock of the first entity, the method comprising:

by a second entity,

underwriting, by a second entity, an issuance of a convertible security second security issued by the first entity;

purchasing, by the second entity through a computer system, a first quantity of the common stock first security issued by a first entity, wherein funds are electronically transferred from an account for the second party entity to an account of the first entity for the purchase of the first quantity of the common stock by [[a]] the computer system for the purchase, wherein the computer system comprises at least one computer that comprises a RAM memory and a ROM memory;

entering into, by the second entity, a forward purchase contract with the first entity, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to subsequently deliver a second quantity of the security common stock of the first entity to the first entity by a settlement date, wherein the settlement date is a call date of the convertible security second

security issued by the first entity, wherein the first quantity is less than or equal to the second quantity, wherein the convertible security is different from the first entity's common stock, and wherein funds are electronically transferred from the account of the first entity to the account of the second entity pursuant to the forward purchase contract, wherein the reported earnings per share of the common stock of the first entity are not diluted because the second quantity of common stock is accounted for as a repurchase of the second quantity of common stock under the forward purchase contract; and

lending, by the second entity through the computer system, a third quantity of the security common stock issued by the first entity to the investor who has purchased the convertible security second security, wherein funds are electronically transferred from an account of the investor to the account of the second entity for the lending of the third quantity of the first security to the investor,

wherein the forward purchase contract comprises terms that obligate the second entity to pay the first entity until the settlement date of the forward purchase contract (i) any amounts received by the second entity from lending the second quantity of the common stock to the investor and (ii) any dividends paid on the common stock.